

Application No.: 09/670529
Docket No.: AD6649USNA

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REMARKS

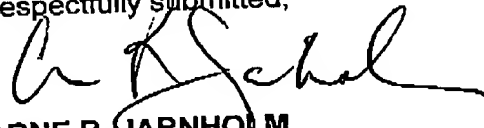
The office action of September 20, 2005 indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In the present office action, the examiner has stated that the amended claims of November 27, 2006 do not meet this requirement. As presently amended, claim 1 includes the limitations of originally-stated claim 12, and thus claims 1-11 and 22 are therefore believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-11 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beavers et al. (U.S. 4,939,009) in view of Wilfong et al. (U.S. 5,407,713). Given the current claim amendments, these rejections are believed to have been overcome and claims 1-11 and 22 are thus believed to be allowable.

Applicant's attorney had a telephonic interview with Primary Examiner Elizabeth Cole on June 20, 2007. Examiner Cole agreed that the present amendment would be entered and that an allowance or a further Office Action would be forthcoming.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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